

Remarks

Further and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to delete Formulas (1-1) and (1-2). Claim 1 has also been amended to make a minor editorial change.

Claim 6 has been amended make a minor editorial change, and to correct a typographical error. Support for this latter amendment is found on the last line of page 8 of the specification.

Claim 12 has been rewritten in independent form, incorporating the limitations of original claim 1 and amended claim 6.

Claim 15 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 4 and 9.

Claims 3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16-20, 23, 25, 27, 28, 30, 31, 33, 34 and 36-40 have been cancelled.

New claims 41-52 have been added to the application, and correspond to some of the claims as originally filed. Specifically, claim 41 corresponds to claim 6, but depends on claim 4. Claim 42 corresponds to claim 9, but depends on claim 41. Independent claim 43 is similar to originally filed claim 1, however it requires the presence of a compound represented by each of Formulas (1-1), (1-2) and (2). Independent claim 45 requires the presence of a compound represented by each of Formulas (1-1), (1-2), (2) and (3). Claims 44 and 46-52 are dependent upon the above listed claims. Therefore, no new matter has been added to the application.

The patentability of the present invention over the disclosure of the reference relied upon by the Examiner in rejecting the claims will be apparent upon consideration of the following remarks.

Thus, the rejection of claims 1-11, 18-31 and 38-40 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kelly (US '312) is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner takes the position that Kelly discloses novel compounds represented by Formula I, which include the present Formulas (1-1) and (1-2), and which can be used in liquid crystal mixture.

However, as stated above, Applicants have amended claim 1 to delete Formulas (1-1) and (1-2). Therefore, amended claim 1 requires a liquid crystal composition having a negative dielectric anisotropy, which comprises at least one compound selected from the group of compounds represented by Formulas (1-3) and (1-4). Kelly does not disclose a compound represented by Formula (1-3) or Formula (1-4), and therefore does not render obvious Applicants' amended claim 1.

Since claims 2, 4, 6, 9, 21, 22, 24, 26 and 29 are directly or indirectly dependent on claim 1, the subject matter of these claims is patentable over Kelly for the same reason the subject matter of claim 1 is patentable over this reference. [The remainder of the rejected claims have been cancelled.]

For these reasons, the invention of claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 9, 21, 22, 24, 26 and 29 is clearly patentable over Kelly.

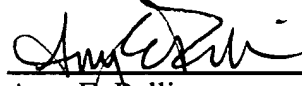
Claims 12-17 and 32-37 were objected to by the Examiner as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated as otherwise allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As discussed above, claim 12 has been rewritten in independent form including the limitations of original claim 1 and amended claim 6. Therefore, claim 12 and dependent claims 15, 32 and 35 are allowable. [Claims 13, 14, 16, 33, 34, 36 and 37 have been cancelled.]

Therefore, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is submitted that each of the grounds of objection and rejection set forth by the Examiner has been overcome, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Such allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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